

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SHIRAZ 00142 130821Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W  
-----102829 141520Z /45  
R 130717Z SEP 78  
FM AMCONSUL SHIRAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 57

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FOR: NEA/IRN

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BGEN, IR  
SUBJ: NIPAK, INC. INVOLVEMENT IN AHWAZ FIRE

1. IN EARLY AUGUST POST RECEIVED CABLE FROM ROBERT E. EBEL, VICE PRESIDENENSERCH CORP., 1025 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W., SOLICITING OUR HELP IN INVESTIGATING AN INCIDENT WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURED IN AHWAZ INVOLVING AN ENSERCH SUBSIDIARY, NIPAK, INC. ACCORDING TO EBEL, NIPAK HAD INSTALLED PLASTIC PIPE IN AHWAZ FOR USE IN A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL GAS. ENSERCH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THAT SOME OF THE PIPE THAT WAS LEFT OVER WAS USED OUTSIDE THE PROJECT AREA, AND THAT WHEN THE LINE WAS PUT INTO OPERATION, THE GAS LEAKED, A HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE AND ONE PERSON WAS KILLED.

2. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME DIFFICULTY INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER, BOTH BECAUSE ALL WHO ARE ABLE TO DO SO ESCAPE AHWAZ'S SUMMER HEAT BY TAKING LONG VACATIONS AND BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT ARE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THE NATIONAL IRANIAN GAS COMPANY (NIGC). NONETHELESS, WE HAVE LEARNED INFORMALLY THROUGH CONTACTS IN NIGC THAT A FIRE DID TAKE PLACE APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO UNDER CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED BY EBEL. THE PIPE WAS USED OUTSIDE THE PROJECT

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AREA TO CONNECT A HOUSE OWNED BY AN NIGC EMPLOYEE TO THE TRUNK LINE. HOWEVER, A PRESSURE GAUGE WAS NOT INSTALLED, AND CONSEQUENTLY A GAS LEAK DEVELOPED. THE FIRE WAS IGNITED BY A CHILD PLAYING WITH MATCHES IN ONE ROOM OF THE HOUSE. WHILE HE WAS ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, HE WAS SEVERELY BURNED AND DIED LATER IN A HOSPITAL. OUR CONTACTS WERE NOT ABLE TO INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THERE

WAS ANY COMPLICITY ON THE PART OF NIPAK IN THIS INCIDENT.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTACTING EBEL AND INFORM-  
ING HIM OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT TO THE EX-  
TENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THEM. HOWEVER,  
IN VIEW OF NIGC'S RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OFFI-  
CIALLY, WE WOULD HOPE THAT HE WILL AGREE TO KEEP THE  
SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL LEST OUR CONTACTS  
IN NIGC BE COMPROMISED.

TOMSETH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SHIRAZ00142  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NIPAK, INC. INVOLVEMENT IN AHWAZ FIRE  
**TAGS:** BGEN, IR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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